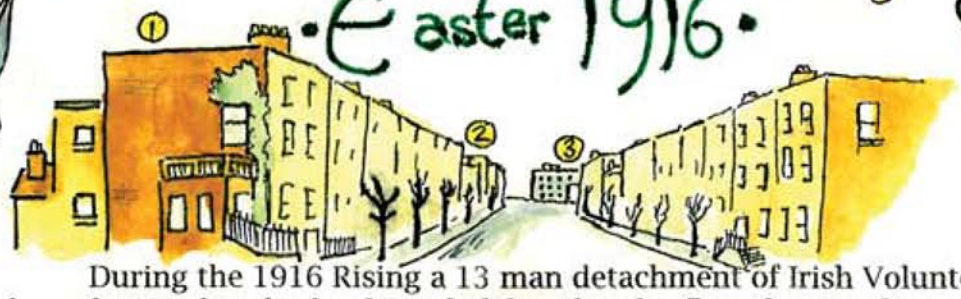
A brief account of the battle of Mount Street Bridge

Easter 1916



1 No. 25
2 Parochial Hall
3 Clanwilliam House

During the 1916 Rising a 13 man detachment of Irish Volunteers, posted along the Northumberland Road, delayed and inflicted severe losses on advancing British reinforcements that were making for the city-centre.

On Easter Monday morning, 28 year old Lieutenant Michael Malone, led the volunteers from mobilisation point at Earlsfort Terrace, and they took up strategic positions near Mount Street Bridge.

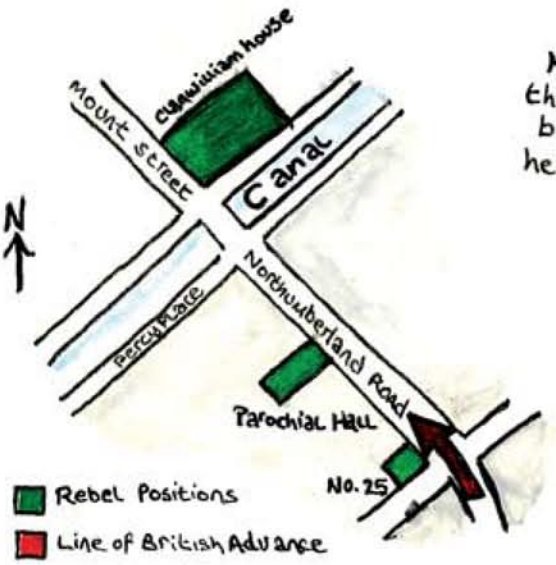
The first engagement took place that afternoon, when a force of 120 British veteran volunteers were ambushed as they made their way for Beggars Bush barracks. Several were wounded or killed, while the rest fled in panic.

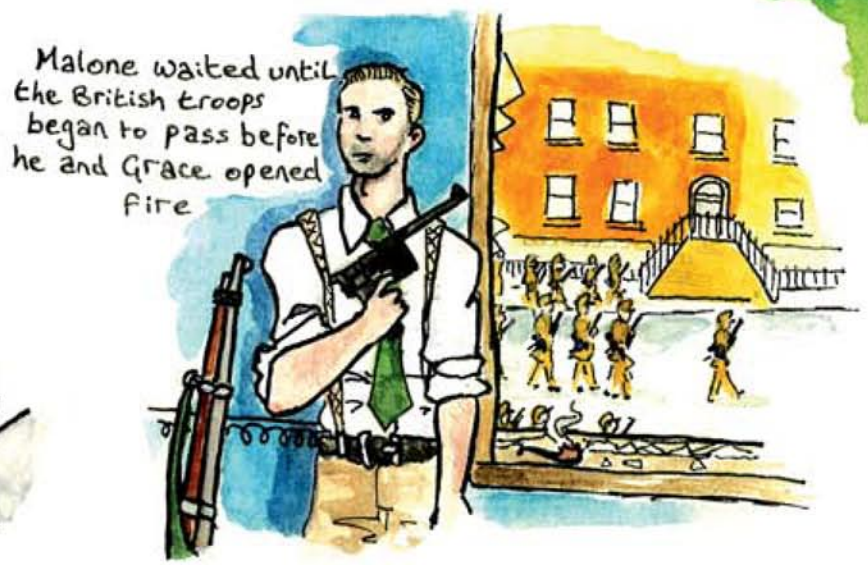
Tuesday passed peacefully enough. Malone sent two young volunteers home. "They're only children," he said, "They're too young to die."

There were now 2 men (Malone and Grace) in No. 25 Northumberland Road, 4 men were further down the road in the Parochial Hall, and another 7 men were across the canal in Clanwilliam House.

On Wednesday morning, 2,000 British troops, the Sherwood Foresters, landed in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) and began to march on Dublin.

A little after midday, the Foresters marched down Northumberland Road and began to pass No. 25 where Malone and his comrade James Grace waited. After the first troops had passed the two volunteers opened fire, as did those in the Parochial Hall and Clanwilliam House. The British soldiers, suffering heavy casualties, sought shelter in the street and gardens. Numerous attempts were made to charge No. 25 as Malone and Grace poured fire from above.





"Boys, isn't this a great day for Ireland"
-Patrick Doyle, Clanwilliam House, moments before he is shot

Eventually the barricaded front door was blown open with explosives; however the soldiers who entered were shot by Malone who crouched behind another barricade on the stairs. The soldiers retreated but then managed to break in through the back door. Grace was forced to withdraw into the basement. "Im coming down to help you" Malone shouted from the room above. He came down the stairs, pistol in hand and pipe in mouth, and was shot to pieces in a hail of bullets from British soldiers in the hallway. A number of grenades were thrown into the basement, but Grace, crouching behind a cooker, miraculously survived, and, remaining hidden from the searching troops, was able to later slip out the back.

Meanwhile the British troops had attempted a number of frontal assaults on the Parochial House further down the road, again resulting in high casualties. The four volunteers there held out until six o'clock when their ammunition was spent. They abandoned the Hall and attempted to retreat out the back into Percy Place. Here they were captured by British troops. One of the volunteers, Joe Clarke, was about to be executed on the spot when a British medical officer intervened and saved his life.

Now only Clanwilliam House remained between the British troops and the city-centre. Again and again the officers blew their whistles and soldiers charged across the canal bridge and attempted to take the rebel position. Again and again the charge faltered under fire from Clanwilliam House. But under an inferno of British fire the house eventually was set ablaze. Three volunteers, George Reynolds, Dick Murphy and Patrick Doyle were already dead and the four surviving men were forced to abandon the house or be burnt alive. They escaped into the garden and managed to avoid capture.

Overall, British dead and wounded amounted to some 250; 4 Irish Volunteers were dead.

The Easter Lilly is a symbol of rememberance for those who fell for Irish Freedom

Mount St. Bridge Commemoration
Saturday 23 April
3pm, Mount St. Bridge

Dublin Commemoration
Sunday 24 April
1.30pm, Phibsboro Shopping Centre, march to Glasnevin

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